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Attorney Docket No. 03685/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Kazuhisa KIMURA  
Serial No. : 10/716,899  
Filed : November 18, 2003  
For : INK JET RECORDING  
MAINTENANCE APPARATUS  
AND INK JET RECORDING  
APPARATUS  
Art Unit : 2853  
Examiner : MIER, STEPHEN D.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)  
AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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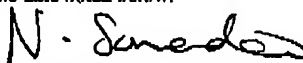
Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a European Search Report dated June 28, 2005, issued in a European application which is a counterpart of related U.S. Serial No. 10/396,307 (which corresponds to US 2004/0189742, cited in the IDS filed October 12, 2004);
- (2) Copies of cited publications (except U.S. patents and publications); and
- (3) Form PTO/SB/08A.

The European Search Report is in English, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

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USP 6,260,944 listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A is a counterpart of EP 0 513 833 cited in the attached European Search Report. See the Annex to the European Search Report.

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)**

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of June 28, 2005. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in said communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement.

It is requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Holtz, Esq.  
Reg. No. 22,974

FRISHAUF HOLTZ GOODMAN & CHICK, P.C.

220 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10001-7708  
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900  
Fax No. (212) 319-5101  
LH:nps

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Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		Application Number	10/716,899		
		Filing Date	November 18, 2003		
		First Named Inventor	Kazuhisa KIMURA		
		Group Art Unit	2853		
		Examiner Name	MEIER, STEPHEN D.		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	03685/LH

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits <sup>1</sup>	Cite No <sup>2</sup>	Document Number	Kind Code <sup>3</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
		4,829,318		RACICOT et al	05-09-1989	
		5,886,714	A	BURNET et al	03-23-1999	
		6,260,944	B1	MOCHIZUKI et al	07-17-2001	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam Inits <sup>1</sup>	Cite No <sup>2</sup>	Office <sup>3</sup>	Document Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T <sup>6</sup>
		EP	0 513 833	A2	SEIKO EPSON CORP.	11-19-1992		

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: July 26, 2005